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WILLIAM M. LAFRAN.  
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## The Eastern Puzzle.

That something unusual is going on at Constantinople, apart from the Macedonian imbroglio, is indicated by the sudden conclusion of the long-protracted negotiations between Berlin and the Porte over the continuation of the Constantinople-Konia Railway to Bagdad, on terms exceedingly favorable to the German syndicate that has it in hand. Although nothing is said in the reports published about the eventual extension of the line to the much-disputed terminus at Koweit on the Persian Gulf, there is reason to believe that some understanding has been arrived at to which the Russian Government is not entirely a stranger; and it is probably in connection with it that we have the news by way of St. Petersburg that Muscat, outside the entrance to the Persian Gulf, will shortly be taken under the protection of Great Britain. This would convert the whole of southern Arabia into a British dependency and an annex of India; and the inlets and outlets of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf would be practically under British control.

The situation is rendered still more interesting by the allegation in the Russian press that the Afghans have demanded back the Heri-rud somewhere in the neighborhood of Herat, and have thereby cut off the water supply of the Russian settlements on the lower course of that river where it forms the boundary line between Persia and Russian territory. Taken in connection with the Perso-Afghan dispute about the waters of the Helmand, which a British-Indian commission is to settle, these movements point to an intention of the Great Powers interested in southwestern Asia to bring their long-outstanding dispute to a definite conclusion.

## The Automatic Smoker.

The world is spluttering in the smoke of the great battle between trust cigars and anti-trust cigars, the Gueffs and Gibbells of the twentieth century. It is said to be the most heated smoke war since the days of the tobacco monopoly in regard to this conflict. Monopoly or anti-monopoly is all one to them; and if a cigar is doctored to burn and amiable of odor they don't care a snap who made it or who sold it. This seems to corroborate in part the theory of the Traskites and Littlebertreeds that tobacco has a bad effect upon the moral sense.

We remember anti-tobaccoist apostles who used to point with pride to the fact that Gen. Banks never smoked; but as Bismarck smoked most of his time the intellectual advantages of the non-smoker were never sufficiently proved by the case of the Bobbin Boy. If, however, it can be shown that men who shudder and shake at the mere mention of that horrible word "trust," smoke trust-made cigars with satisfaction, we shall have to believe that the sense of right and wrong may be injured by tobacco. Can anybody imagine EPICTETUS or PLATO as rolling a cigarette? Yet we are told, and told truly, no doubt, that the moderns, bad as some of them are, are much better than the ancients. Why? The antique world had neither tobacco nor whiskey. How then did the antique world escape being superior to the modern?

It will not do to linger among these difficult and perhaps vain paths of speculation. Still, we cannot refrain from saying that without tobacco there would have been no WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, MADISON, MARSHALL, MONROE, no Declaration of Independence, no Constitution.

No such we must testify for the truth. We have no selfish motives in doing so. If we smoke at all, it is as Uncle (quoting) or was it (quoting) "smoked in (quoting) the journey to Cambridge?" for a cruel nervous disease. And now away with confessions, apologies and personal views. We are about to check beautifully objective science under the chin. In the chemical laboratories of the Polytechnic Institute of Worcester, Mass., experiments of great path and moment are now going on. It has been said, and not by the wicked and prejudiced alone, that tobacco smoke contains a certain or uncertain amount of poisonous gases, "deadly poisonous" gases. If this be true the smoker "sucks up poison from a narrow core." The Worcester experiments are to show how much of this kind of poison the kind of smoke produces. In token of our admiration of the lifelike imitations made by modern science, we take from the learned columns of the Boston Transcript this programme:

An experiment will be made to ascertain that the smoke of the cigarette contains more than the smoke of the cigar. The smoke of the cigarette will be passed through a series of chemical tests, and the results compared with those of the smoke of the cigar. The smoke of the cigarette will be passed through a series of chemical tests, and the results compared with those of the smoke of the cigar. The smoke of the cigarette will be passed through a series of chemical tests, and the results compared with those of the smoke of the cigar.

tate the action of the real smoker under conditions in which they can be submitted to scientific study. The air that remains in the room after profuse smoking will also be analyzed for its poisonous constituents.

Here is an apparatus which might well be used in tobacco shops. There are cigars incapable of action or yielding to it only after superhuman struggles. The force of suction necessary to keep a given cigar in operation should be marked on the box. The automatic smoking machine is big with possibilities and results of deep concern to the smoker. A reasonable amount of poisonous gas will not bother him. Every rose has its thorn. But the problems of society are enormous. Civilization is greatly retarded by the vast amount of energy which is diverted from fruitful exercise and dribbled away in the effort to produce inspiration and aspiration in lungless cigars.

## The Coming American Race.

The very remarkable change which has taken place during recent years in the natural sources from which immigration to this country is drawn is made the subject of an interesting discussion by Mr. GUSTAVE MICHAUD, in the last number of the *Century Magazine*, with reference to its probable effect or effects on "the coming race in America."

Already, as was demonstrated by the census of 1900, over one-half of the white population of the United States consisted of immigrants who came here after 1835 and their descendants. From 1835 to 1880, about seven-eighths of this immigration was of the Baltic race, as Mr. MICHAUD defines it, generally, or the Teutonic, as it is called by Prof. RIPLEY of Harvard—the race of the British, Irish, and of the northern part of Germany. Between 1880 and 1900, however, only a little over one-half of the immigration was of this race, 32 per cent. of the remainder being made up of the Alpine race, as described by Mr. MICHAUD, or the race "gathered about the mountain ranges of central and southern Europe," and 15 per cent. of the Mediterranean race, of Southern Europe. In the two fiscal years 1901 and 1902 the Baltic fell to 35 per cent. and the Alpine rose to 42 and the Mediterranean to 23, and since the present year came in the percentages of these two last races have been increasing. The chief sources of immigration are now Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia, that from Germany and Ireland falling far behind; and the character of the population of New York, more especially, is changing very radically because of it. New York is already a distinctively foreign community, the Manhattan borough containing the smallest percentage of native whites of native parentage of any great community in the Union, thus:

Chicago	20.4	Cleveland	24.9
Philadelphia	26.3	San Francisco	24.9
Baltimore	28.1	Boston	21.3
Baltimore	46.4	Milwaukee	46.4
Cincinnati	54.9	Manhattan Borough	17.9

The percentage of native whites of native parentage in the city of New York as a whole was 21.5. In the great New Jersey towns which are virtually a part of the community of New York the percentage of this population was also small—in Paterson 27.7; in Jersey City 27.7, in Newark 29.

Out of a total immigration of 1,083,335 from Europe in the fiscal years 1901 and 1902, or up to June 30, about four-fifths was from Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia, and the increase in the foreign-born of New York, more especially, is from them almost exclusively. These immigrants are now arriving in increasing volume. With their addition New York has become the seat of the greatest conglomeration of races brought together in the history of mankind.

What will be the effect on the American race of this new flood of immigration? Mr. MICHAUD, after an analysis of the race characteristics of these newcomers, the Alpine and the Mediterranean, as he describes them, reaches the conclusion that "we need every one of the qualities of the two alien races which are peacefully invading our land." The Alpine race brings conservatism and morality, and the Mediterranean industry, dexterity, courtesy, artistic taste and an emotional character. That is, the immigrants who may be expected almost exclusively during the present decade will be a desirable addition to our population and to the elements from which is gradually developing a coming American race. This "recent turn taken by immigration," to use the words of Mr. MICHAUD, "will deeply and in many ways modify our national character," but not in the way of deterioration. Physically, but by a slow process, through intermarriage, "the skull will become shorter and broader," a change of which already he discerns the beginning in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, the average stature will become less, the brunette type will increase. Of the mental changes produced, he instances particularly "stronger family ties, a marked check in the pursuit as well as in the display of wealth, a greater love for abstract knowledge, for the science pure of the French," and the addition to our national character of the artistic temperament of the Italians.

The distinction between the characteristics of the people of the North and of the Southern States in many ways so obvious, is referable largely if mainly to the modifications introduced into the North by the great immigration since 1835. Of this, the Southern States have received so small a part that Southerners are still of the old American stock. Of the total of 10,400,000 foreigners in the United States in 1900, only 32,574 were in the eleven States of the old Southern Confederacy, and more than half of them in the single State of Texas, yet the total population of those States was 19,975,000. Georgia, for instance, with a total population of 2,716,331, had only 12,000 foreigners; in North Carolina, out of 1,950,810 only 4,692; in Virginia only 19,661 out of 1,854,154; in Mississippi only 1,361,270. To the population of the city of New York immigration is now adding yearly about as many foreigners as are in all those Southern States, with the exception of Texas.

whose foreign population, large for the South, was 179,347 in 1900, out of a total of 3,048,710.

## The Pope Again.

The impressive ceremonies in St. Peter's yesterday marked an event that the Church has seen but twice before, the twenty-fifth anniversary of a Pope's coronation. For that wonderful old man, Leo XIII., this year 1903 means a succession of "jubilee" celebrations; he has been sixty years a Bishop, nearly fifty years a Cardinal, and now twenty-five years a Pope.

Should he live till May 10, as there is every reason to hope he may, he will have attained to the traditional "years of PETER" and the legend that those years could not be surpassed will receive a second blow. It is improbable, and would seem almost miraculous, that he should equal the long pontificate of Pius IX., for Leo XIII. has just completed his ninety-third year, and in six years and a half would be nearly 100 years old.

It is no dying Pope that addressed the Cardinals on Monday and withstood the fatigue of yesterday's ceremonies. May the day of the conclave be far distant!

## The Big Seven Thousand.

The "Big Tree" grove of Calaveras is in imminent danger. Lumbermen have bought the land, they are preparing to build a railroad to carry off the lumber, and unless the State steps in the giant trees, the only specimens of their kind on the globe, will soon disappear as completely as the mammoths they looked down upon in their youth.

There are only seven thousand of the *Sequoia gigantea* left, all in the Calaveras region. They are among the great wonders of the world, like Niagara, attracting foreigners to America and Americans to California to see what can be seen nowhere else; but their thousand-year-old grandeur cannot save them from the greed for money.

Congress has so far failed to act. The Senate, it is true, passed a bill for the acquisition of the land in the House, but it was held up in the House. President Roosevelt has now been entreated by those who have been trying to save these relics of prehistoric vegetation to use his influence. The only immediate help possible lies in Speaker HENDERSON's reversing his policy of obstruction and permitting the pending bill to be put to a vote.

Otherwise the trees are doomed unless the expression of public condemnation is so strong as to lead the woodman to stay his hand till the new Congress can act.

## Two Matches.

The owner of McChesney challenges the owner of Hermis for a match between these cracks of the East and West, respectively, to be run next summer. At the same time the owner of Major Delmar challenges the owner of Lord Derby, who happens likewise to be the owner of McChesney, to a match to be trotted next summer. Each contest would be the best of its kind. May both eventuate.

With McChesney on the running turf and Lord Derby on the trotting track, Mr. SMATHERS has one foot on the highest pinnacle of each kind of sport. We incline to think, however, that, given all four horses well and fit, the odds would be against Mr. SMATHERS, both under saddle and in harness.

Hermis and Major Delmar for us, though so near alike are chances on either side that we have entire respect for opinion that prefers their rivals.

## Another Bad Bill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—In yesterday's SUN I noticed a short article entitled "Bad Bills in the Legislature." I entirely agree with the Sun in those named, but I do not believe that the other bills which clearly come under the above head. The bill which I refer to is Senator Marshall's bill, amending the Charter of the City of New York, which was introduced in the Senate on February 2, 1903, and which was reported to the Senate on February 10, 1903. It is a bill which would give the Mayor the power to appoint and remove all city officers, and it is a bill which would give the Mayor the power to appoint and remove all city officers.

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The President of the Chicago Dramatic Association has designed and recommended for the use of Chicago women a windy-day skirt, warranted not to be blown away by gales. A Whapgon skirt, it is intimated, declares Weather Prophet that of that town. "To suppose that gales, or semi-gales, always prevail here. The average velocity of the wind in Chicago is 15 miles per hour, although it has sometimes risen to 18 miles per hour." The proposition should be submitted to the Chicago women's favor. He is more interested in Chicago's reputation for atmospheric quietude than in the Chicago girls' reputation for perfection of physical beauty.

An interesting change is about to be made in the army by the organization of the infantry into a single division. The present organization of the infantry is into three divisions, each consisting of two regiments of foot and one regiment of mounted troops. The new organization would consist of a single division, and it would give the army a more uniform organization.

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mand the proposed fifteen brigades. The number was fixed upon not by chance, but because it was needed; and the promotion of the chief of artillery to Brigadier should not have been made an excuse for the delay. The letter was the cry of a disappointed mother and a neglected wife. God help you and others like you. I want to comfort you a little, if I can, and to show you how in one respect you are "looking through a glass darkly."

Yes, it is a fine thing to be your husband's "chum"; it is the necessary result of a happy marriage. I am the mother of two children, but an still my husband's "chum," in the sense that we still enjoy going out together; seldom, it is true, but just often enough to make us feel that we are still together. I am the mother of two children, but an still my husband's "chum," in the sense that we still enjoy going out together; seldom, it is true, but just often enough to make us feel that we are still together.

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## CHILDREN OR NO CHILDREN.

Continuation of the Discussion Raised by the Childless Wife.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: To the "Childless Woman" I would say: "My dear friend, you have my sincere sympathy. Your letter was the cry of a disappointed mother and a neglected wife. God help you and others like you. I want to comfort you a little, if I can, and to show you how in one respect you are 'looking through a glass darkly.'"

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## MARCONI LOSES A CASE.

Honolulu Jury Decides That His System Was a Failure There.

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Feb. 18.—A jury in the Circuit Court found this morning that Marconi was not entitled to pay for the installation of his wireless telegraph system in Hawaii, and that the system here was an improvement upon the one he had attempted to establish.

The case was that of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company against F. J. Cross, wherein Marconi sued for \$5,500, the purchase price of the patent, and for \$2,500, but an still my husband's "chum," in the sense that we still enjoy going out together; seldom, it is true, but just often enough to make us feel that we are still together. I am the mother of two children, but an still my husband's "chum," in the sense that we still enjoy going out together; seldom, it is true, but just often enough to make us feel that we are still together.

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## STAND BY WOODRUFF.